



**UU Report form - Erasmus 2022-2023**

faculty/college	Faculty of the Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Bachelor Sociology

destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
how did you travel to your destination?	Plane
name university abroad	University of New South Wales
start date	05 / 09 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	06 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

I decided that I wanted to go on exchange so I started the application process by requesting to study abroad and applying for the selection process in Osiris. This was quite easy still as you are just applying. During the application process you also have to hand in a motivation letter as to why you would like to go to your chosen university and country. Definitely take the time to thoroughly go through this and do your research, because it helps if you know what you are talking about! I think having a good balance of personal reasons and academic reasons helped me. I must add the whole process does take some time as it is a lot of back and forth waiting to hear if things are accepted or not, so be prepared.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I thought that international office FSW was quite supportive. Like with most offices, and especially during COVID, they were quite busy and sometimes it could take time to get a reply. But they were never too late to reply if it came to deadline stuff which I really appreciated. Furthermore, they were always offering different options for support. I especially liked that I could ask to contact a student who was on their exchange at the time or had just finished their exchange and could tell me some things about it. Another positive was the information days or afternoons that were organised on campus that gave a bit more insight into the process of culture shock, deadlines, finance topics and more. Lastly, the evening where everyone got to meet the people that are possibly going to the same country or even uni was very helpful, I even stayed friends with someone I had met there and frequently met up with them on exchange.

academic preparation

I personally don't remember having to do much academic preparation. Maybe only when I really didn't want to fail any courses in the previous semesters so that I wouldn't have to catch up on too many courses when I got back. The courses I chose didn't have any difficult academic prerequisites that needed my attention.

language preparation

Going to an English speaking country as a half Australian who grew up in a bilingual household, this part of the preparation was not very concerning for me... But you of course need to be able to prove that you have some standard of English as the uni will be providing the courses in English.

finances

Living in a big city like Sydney, I had an idea that it was going to be expensive. 1 AUD was like 0,64 Euro cent during my time there which of course makes everything look more expensive. Long story short, it was pretty expensive living in Sydney. Going from travelling free on the weekdays here in NL, to paying every public transport trip in Aus, it was a bit concerning. Overall, food and drinks (especially alcohol), accommodation,



travel, activities do really add up. I had saved up to take this trip but I must admit that you spend it quick. Notably, if you are planning to travel during breaks or after studies, I hope you have more money saved. I also was still loaning some money from the government in NL and I would use Wise to transfer it over. I really liked this app as it was quick and easy, however don't transfer just before or on the weekend because then you will not get your money until the Monday! Unfortunately yes, like any money transfer program there will be some transaction costs that come with every transaction, so maybe plan this out to transfer in larger amounts every now and then, rather than a lot of transactions of small amounts.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The University of New South Wales works in terms of three with a winter term and a summer term. I went to study the equivalent of 1 semester in Utrecht (30ECTS) which was Term 3 and the Summer Term. In Term 3 I did three courses in about ten weeks. The Summer Term consisted of one course in 5 weeks. Apparently I ended up following mostly first year courses (as a third year), which meant that the academic level was not as high as I thought it would be. To me, the levels of the courses were not clear from just reading the course description and information pages, only when the examencommissie responded with approval, I could see what the academic level of the courses were. I followed two courses in the criminology area of studies and thoroughly enjoyed this. One was more focussed on the Australian justice system which may be a little harder as someone who does not know the Australian system but it is easy to catch on and find out how it works over there.

academic quality of education activities

The quality of education was really good. The University is ranked really well in Australia. Setup of most courses was similar to Utrecht in the way that you would follow lectures and then tutorials or workgroups to discuss the topics of the week. I really loved the library at UNSW as it has so many different study options; some floors you can eat and drink/socialise and make slight noise, whilst on others they were completely silent. Also lots of options to sit at different kinds of tables or in different kinds of chairs, booths and hubs which felt really comforting and accepting of all the study preferences. Teachers were also always available and easy to reach .

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

This university offered so much it was nearly overwhelming. I once got a bit sick and could easily plan a visit to the doctors office at the uni and get checked. Other services included so much support for mental health, feeling safe on campus and help desks on basic things. Basically, there were enough contact points for any concerns you might have. One negative was that the exchange office there was really slow in contacting/responding and even unclear sometimes that I felt I figured some things out by myself.

transfer of credits

The grades I got in Australia have been converted to an overall pass or fail and that will be converted into the 30ECTS of the semester in Osiris.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

First week of uni was O-Week (orientation week). For a whole week, certain spots on campus had lines of stalls, banners and tents all with information regarding different activities, sports and clubs/societies. There were also opportunities for campus tours to get familiar with the grounds. Other orientation activities included a formal introduction lecture to your choice of faculty, a chancellors speech and a welcoming of country. The welcoming of country I found really special as the Aborigines are the original custodians of the land. The uni tries to respect this as much as possible by acknowledging the fact that we are walking on their land and that we are all welcomed to study there, giving a bit of insight to the international students who may not know the history of Australia.

accommodation



Yikes, this was a difficult one. If you were on time you could have (really early on) applied for housing on campus. I did have a look at this but it was not much cheaper than I thought (hoped) it would be. My point of view is therefore on off-campus living. I used the website flatmates.com.au to find a room somewhere in the surrounding suburbs of the campus. First of all: rent is advertised and paid as PER WEEK. Don't be a fool like me and think at first glance: wow this is actually really affordable! So, my budget was trying to find something between 150\$-250\$ per week (max 1000\$ +/- 635euros per month). This was hard. Yes there were places with this kind of rent but they did not meet my requirements; most were too far away, missed something or just looked like it would fall apart any minute. After a long search I ended up paying 300\$ a month in a share house in Redfern, 20 minute commute to the campus. I lived with 5 others who were mostly working and around my age. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in this house and got really close with my housemates, so fun! The room came with a bed, desk+chair, cupboard and the house had a big kitchen, tv and washing machine+dryer. In the end I think it was worth paying the money for as I had direct transport to the campus, was close to the central station, close to parks, close to the CBD, had a good connection to get to the beaches and overall just had a nice atmosphere and great group of European housemates. There are many options out there and just like any country you can get scammed so be careful about what kind of information you give out.

leisure & culture

Sydney is a very international city and has many great landmarks and typical tourist things to do. There are so many beaches in Sydney that you will never get bored of the views. Like I had mentioned before, it was quite easy to get around to the main Eastern suburbs beaches (closest to uni) like Coogee and Bondi. But with the many options available it is easy to plan walks/hikes and small trips to other beaches in the area. Basically, you have to explore as much as you can as there are endless things to find.

I found that I went on exchange, here at the perfect time: spring and summer. I had already gotten to Sydney during the month of August which isn't the warmest yet. But then Spring and Summer come around and the so many activities and events happen during these months. Especially Christmas and New Years are spectacular in Sydney, Xmas in the Summer feels very strange for most of us but is really cool and interesting to try at least once. During this time you might learn the Aussie way of Xmas.

Honestly, I could go on and on on what there is to do in Sydney culturally or for fun but here are some main points: some museums are free and really interesting; weekend markets are very popular and you can find many throughout Sydney on the different weekend days; there are so many surfing lesson opportunities (because if you are in Aus, you have to have tried surfing?); there is actually quite a lot of green/parks to visit on a quiet day; you are surrounded by mountains and national parks so hiking options are endless. I would also recommend getting the 'pub' feel as it is a very different type of going out than most clubs (which they also have in Sydney).

Lastly, like I said before, Sydney is a very international place and as a half Aussie who has partially grown up not too far up the coast from Sydney I would 100% recommend getting out of the city once in a while to experience some real Australian towns/suburbs/accents/culture. You cannot forget to try and experience some of the famous tourist places like the Great Barrier Reef, Uluru, The Blue Mountains, Melbourne, Byron Bay and many more – basically if you can, travel as much as you can because Australia is huge and has so much diversity that Sydney alone cannot give you.

suggestions/tips

- Alcohol is expensive and not available in the normal grocery stores; you have to go to a local "bottle-o" (liquor store) and try some cheap goon (box wine). All jokes aside, if you want some alcohol for some night life, I strongly recommend not buying too much at the club or you will absolutely fly through your savings. Also important to note: Australian law is quite strict on alcohol consumption and public drinking, try to read up on some rules before you go.
- New Year's Eve Sydney was really the most spectacular New Year's Eve firework show I have ever seen in my entire life. It REALLY is worth seeing. Tip for this is to check out the official Sydney New Years Eve website and find tickets for the zone you would like to sit in. Some cost money, others don't, obviously: the more money, the better the view. I would suggest going for a spot in the botanical gardens (especially on Mrs Macquarie's Chair) or where I sat was Campbells Cove for \$40 pp which had



absolutely phenomenal views. Note: this event is probably the biggest of the year and literally millions of people show up for it (another reason to reserve a spot). This means the CBD of Sydney is flooded with people and police and security are everywhere. Be prepared is my main tip; read up on the rules of the spot you reserve (as most don't allow alcohol), bring enough to eat and drink, bring blankets or something to sit on, and ARRIVE WELL ON TIME to avoid getting lost in the crowds.

- Public transport has gotten quite good in Sydney, there are busses, trams (the Lightrail), trains and even bikes. There are two trams (lightrail) that go directly to either side of Campus (great for uni students). They are currently working on a new metro line underground too. Two things on the transport is 1: it is not very cheap (especially the lightrail), buy an Opal Card which you use to tap on and off everywhere you go. You do have to put money on this. As an international student I could not get a student opal card so I paid the normal adult price for each trip. Plus side is that once you travel often enough, sometimes you get free bus rides (I don't know how this works, sometimes it just said \$0,00). Number 2: in the NL I was used to the screens in the bus telling you where you are and when the next stop is going to be. In Sydney they do have screens, but they always seemed to be turned off. Everyone relies on google maps to see at which stop you have to get off. I don't know if this was a temporary thing but it really threw me off the first couple of times.
- Another tip or suggestion is to TRAVEL/MAKE TRIPS OUTSIDE OF SYDNEY. Like I said before, Sydney is wonderful but there is only so much you can see there. Travel up or down the east coast by either road tripping or flying. It's expensive, but so worth it.
- Wildlife is obviously a big thing in Australia. Most people know about the dangerous creatures that live there. And yes this is true, every other week or so, my housemates and I would come across huge spiders. I would read an Australian spider chart to get familiar with what you might encounter because most just look really big and scary but are actually quite harmless. Then again you might come across some of the most dangerous ones and then you don't want to be making stupid decisions. My tip is to familiarise yourself and try and have respect for the wildlife around you. There is so much to find and see if you look for it, even the birds are very interesting. Taronga Zoo in Sydney is a big recommendation. Also, Bin chickens (ibis) and cockatoos *will* get your food if you leave it out but they will never do anything to you specifically. Again, just familiarise yourself with the culture you are going to be a part of.
- A last suggestion or tip would be to share that Sydney can be quite dirty (like most big cities) and consist of worn down buildings, I only mention this because it may seem like a bit of a let down sometimes. Also, just be cautious about the homeless and mentally ill people that walk around, they may scream things out loud at passers by and it may feel a little scary.
- Overall last tip: really just do your research. That's the best tip I can give; there is so much information online that can help you familiarise and be a respectful international student that understands the customs. It is not that different to NL but it's a good way to understand some cultural aspects.

### CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

100% YES. I fell in love with the University of New South Wales. It really gives off a campus feeling and really gets students involved in anything they're interested in. I think the uni has something for everyone and Sydney/Australia is just a destination that is not like many others. There are countless opportunities to meet people and you will find that there are so many different cultures. I always had something to do and really felt part of a community. I would definitely want to go back.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

I have already said so much but I could say so much more so feel free to send me an email. As someone with an Australian passport, a lot of things came quite easily to me so talking about Visa requirements is something I cannot help with. Nevertheless my mains advice is to start preparing early. So many things take time and might not go right the first time, there is a lot of bouncing back and forth of



information which takes a lot of time. Also, new things are scary but also exciting, try new and different things and surround yourself with good people and you will be just fine.  
Lastly, check your spam/junk folder often, some things unfortunately end up there that are quite important!!  
Luckily, most of the time I found out in time but I don't want to imagine what would have happened if I missed some of those emails...



**UU Report form - Erasmus 2022-2023**

faculty/college	Social Sciences
Level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's
name study programme	Minor psychology

destination city & country	sydney, Australia
how did you travel to your destination?	by plane
name university abroad	university of new south wales
start date	27/ 08 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	25/ 11 / 2022(dd/mm/yyyy)

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

The application procedure was sometimes quite unclear. Be prepared for difficult communication with the university in Sydney due to the time difference and the many international students who want to apply for an exchange. If anything is unclear contact them immediately so that you have some time to finish the whole procedure.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I must admit that Utrecht University did try to help with the application procedure, but that they themselves often did not know how to do that. They did, however, have a general meeting for all students going abroad. But as far as the application procedure for the university is concerned, I really had to arrange everything myself. Even if there were ambiguities during the application, I was urged by Utrecht University to contact the university in Sydney. This sometimes caused a lot of stress because I didn't know whether my application was going well.

academic preparation

There wasn't much extra academic preparation needed when I went to Sydney.

language preparation

You need to have certificates to show that you can meet their language criteria. I had a couple of certificates, like IB English and Cambridge English. However, pay attention to the date of your certificates. The university is very strict and if your certificates are older than 2 years you need to go and get a new certificate. Certificates costs are around 250 euros.

finances

Studying in Australia is expensive. You spend a minimum of around 1000 euros a month on rent. On top of that I would say that your living expenses are around a thousand euros a month as well. And of course you also need a plane ticket which is around 1800 euros.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The university knows how to organize their lectures, it reminded me a lot of the lectures back home here in Utrecht. Once you are in Sydney it is easy to visit the Nucleus on campus where they can fix everything for you. They also show you all the places where you can go if you need help during your study during the introduction



day.
academic quality of education activities
I thought the educational level was a bit lower than here in the Netherlands. They have more small assignments and deadlines during the semester and you also get graded on participation and on interaction in class. I also found that the way in which they grade your work or essays is way more lenient than the Dutch way.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I didn't need much support or counseling, but they did introduce every student to the possibilities and help that they offered on the introduction day.
transfer of credits
They send the Universiteit Utrecht your credits.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme
The university organizes an introduction week. I expected a lot from this week but after the first day I figured out that nothing was mandatory. Nonetheless, I met many nice people on my first day and when you go to your lectures you'll also definitely make new friends. It was nice to get to see all of the campus on the first day.
accommodation
You need to find your own accommodation or apply to a college dorm very very early. I went to Sydney without a room and found a place to stay all by myself in a shared house with 6 students in the city. The university is not really helping you out with finding a home, this is mostly your own responsibility. If you find it too stressful to go to Sydney without a permanent stay than I suggest you go and apply very early to the college dorms.
leisure & culture
Aussie people are amazing very friendly and always helpful. You will love how open and engaging they are.
suggestions/tips
Flatmates is a good website way to find housing if you don't want to be in a college dorm.

**CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes I would definitely go again if I had the chance to go and study in Sydney. I honestly fell in love with the city. And because the education level is not too high you also have the opportunity to explore a lot of the city and the surroundings and make nice daytrips.
do you have any additional advice or comments?



**UU Report form - Erasmus 2022-2023**

faculty/college	Social Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Psychology

destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
how did you travel to your destination?	By airplane
name university abroad	UNSW
start date	05/09/22
end date	15/12/22 (dd/mm/yyyy)

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

When choosing my destination, I knew I wanted to go to Australia, but I didn't know exactly yet to which university. So I compared all the websites of the universities Utrecht offered and I made my choice. In my application letter, I also elaborated on why I chose this university, to show my motivation.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

In preparation of applying to UNSW, I contacted the international office several times through phone calls. They were always very responsive and tried their best to answer all my questions.

academic preparation

I didn't really have to prepare anything academically in advance, I only had to choose which courses I wanted to follow during my exchange.

language preparation

I had to pass an English exam to be able to attend UNSW. I took the IELTS test.

finances

In preparation of my exchange, I started saving money as soon as I knew I got into UNSW. Every month I set aside money to save up for my exchange. I also worked during my exchange, so I didn't have to worry about money while being away.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme at UNSW was pretty similar to the one at Utrecht University. Everything was organised online, from the application, to choosing courses to finding housing. UNSW kept in contact through email before my exchange started, so they really guided me through the process.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality at UNSW is really good. UNSW is ranked 24<sup>th</sup> on the 2021 QS World University Rankings by Subject. The lectures and classes were pretty similar to the education system here and also on comparable level.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

In preparation for my exchange, I could contact UNSW through email and I often got a response within a week.



During my exchange, the teachers of my classes were really helpful and involved.
transfer of credits
I had to send my marks of the courses I followed at UNSW to the UU through MyEquals system. That worked fast and fine.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
I started my exchange at the third trimester of the year, so it wasn't the start of the school year for everybody. However, UNSW still organised an orientation programme (O-week), which was a nice way of meeting new people.
accommodation
I rented an apartment through AirBnB with 3 other Dutch girls. The housing on campus was too expensive in my opinion for what you got.
leisure & culture
I expected the culture to be pretty similar to the Netherlands, because Australia also has a Western culture, but it was quite the opposite. I learned a lot about the Australian culture while being there and I think it's best for you to explore and experience it yourself :).
suggestions/tips
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<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, definitely. I love Sydney as a city to live in, so an exchange is a great way to experience the city. Besides, UNSW is a really great university which will definitely guide you through your exchange.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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**UU Report form - Erasmus 2022-2023**

email address	a.t.kwast@students.uu.nl
faculty/college	Social science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Psychology

destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
how did you travel to your destination?	With the plane
name university abroad	University of new south Wales
start date	1 / 9 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	1 / 2 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

This spoke for itself because everything is well described on the site!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I was helped a lot with my questions! I also found everything very clear on the site.

academic preparation

You don't really have to prepare anything besides the English test.

language preparation

To go to a university in Australia you have to take an English test so that they know for sure that you can speak English. I took the IELTS test myself, and for this I did practice tests for a few weeks in preparation.

finances

I saved a lot of money! I also applied for a scholarship, which I eventually received. If you want to apply for this I would start early because it takes some work. Life in Australia is not cheap, but of course you can make it as expensive as you want!

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

You have 10 weeks of lessons, followed by an exam period. In addition, you usually also have to do essays and sometimes a presentation. This differs per subject.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality can be compared to the Netherlands, although at UNSW you take 3 subjects at the same time instead of 2. But in my opinion these subjects are easier, so you have about the same amount of work as in the Netherlands. I myself chose easy subjects so that I had more free time.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The counselling at UNSW was very good. I have dyslexia myself, so I even got 50% extra time there and my spelling mistakes in essays were not looked at. This is more than I expected. You can make an appointment at the university for all circumstances and you will be really well helped!



transfer of credits
It was very easy to transfer the credits to Utrecht! This all went online and went very well.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
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welcome & orientation programme
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Before I started classes, there was an orientation week where you get to know other students and you can join different social clubs. for example, I had registered in a surf club! Furthermore, this week is different from the Netherlands, because orientation week in Australia is not known for parties, but really for getting to know each other, doing activities and getting information about the university.

Accommodation
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At first I wanted a room on campus, but this was soon full. This made me look for rooms in the city that were online. In the end I arranged a room for departure with a private company for student accommodations. I have heard from several people that they found it difficult to find a room, so they had to stay in a hostel for the first few weeks in Sydney.

leisure & culture
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In my spare time I often went to the beach with friends. Sydney is a super big city so you can always do new things. After half a year I still haven't seen most of the city. Because of the surf club I often went surfing, and I also went to a surf camp with this. I have also done many trips, such as to the outback, blue mountains and the entire east coast to Cairns in a campervan.  
 In terms of culture, there is much more culture than I thought in Australia. Especially in the outback I learned a lot about the Aboriginals. And at the university they also pay a lot of attention to the history of the Aboriginals through a smoking ceremony at the beginning of a term, and to name the Aboriginals during the lessons.

suggestions/tips
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I would definitely recommend going to the outback! This was such a beautiful experience. In addition, if you follow term 3 and the summer term, you have more than one month of vacation between terms, which gives you enough time to make a nice trip!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
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would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
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Yes I would definitely recommend! It is such a nice experience to study in Australia. The nice weather, nice and relaxed people, English-speaking and a very beautiful country! I also liked the university itself because a lot of attention is paid to getting in touch with other students. For example, there are 200 clubs you can join!

do you have any additional advice or comments?
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Just do it! I also found it very hard to get used to and scary at the beginning, but at a certain point you find your way and you hardly want to leave!



**UU Report form - Erasmus 2019-2020**

faculty/college	Faculty of Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Exchange

destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	University of New South Wales (UNSW)
start date	16 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

**PREPARATION**

exchange application process

I found the application process for UNSW (which is entirely online) very clear. However, allow some time, as you will need to buy an Overseas Health Insurance (OSHC) and Visa. However, to apply for -at least- your visa, you need your Certificate of Enrolment, which you receive from UNSW. There are a lot of little steps in the application process, but it requires quite some time as both UNSW and your Visa require documents! So, it really is a step-by-step process... However; not difficult! You can follow the steps from the UNSW sites (endeavour) and they really are quite clear and helpful! Also, their international office responds quite fast (in my opinion), so if you experience any difficulties you can always email them!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I found the counselling and support very good from Utrecht University! I had to contact them a several times in the beginning, due to the change of exchange destination... They helped me out great and were very fast to reply to my emails! During my exchange, they also emailed me a couple of times regarding the bushfires in New South Wales, which I think was very good! They really seem to care about their students and will think about opportunities with you in case you need advice regarding your exchange programme.

academic preparation

I did not need any academic preparation really... I actually found the level of education lower, compared to Utrecht University. However, be aware that you often need like 1 or 2 years of credits before you take certain courses, and if you would like to do higher level/difficulty courses, then it is quite hard to get in; you really need to have a course that allows you to have the basic knowledge and you need to give proof of that via endeavour!

language preparation

I did not need/have any language preparation. However, I can imagine it being handy if you would watch some telly at home without subtitles (and of course English audio). It can also help to start thinking in English and maybe even talk in English with your friends or family. I sometimes found the 'switch' quite difficult; as in; I thought in Dutch but had to talk in English. However, I do not think the level of English was extremely high or anything... Actually, a lot of students you will meet are international students as well, and they probably have the same level of English language skills as we do in general.

finances

Prepare for this! I found living in Sydney very expensive. Expect 2-3x the amount you would spend in the Netherlands (even with a good exchange rate from Euro to Australian Dollar). I prepared by saving a lot and using my student loan (maximally!).



<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>At the beginning, I found out that there was an actual difference between Exchange students and Study Abroad Students (if I remember correctly). This was a bit weird at the beginning, especially as both types of students have different ways of doing things and there are different offices, etc. Also, different ‘perks’! So, keep that in mind. Also, do your research beforehand in case of the Orientation Day activities! I found that UNSW did not provide a lot of information about this, and I even missed out one of them (and missed a good goody bag because of this). However, the rest was managed very good and I did not have any issues regarding the programme itself.</p> <p>Education-wise though, I had to choose a different course during my summer term (January term), as they suddenly cancelled one course. I could however still sign up for other courses, but keep in mind that they do not guarantee anything regarding their courses, even if the course is in a manual or booklet! So my advice; choose your courses wisely and if you really want/need to do a course, then do these ones in the ‘normal terms’ (Term 1, 2 or 3), and choose something nice but not especially necessary for the summer term or winter term (if you would do this though ☺)</p>
academic quality of education activities	<p>As said before, I found the quality/level of education quite low. I also did not have any final exams, which I found interesting. I had to write quite a lot of essays instead. However, I know some friends that actually did have a lot of exams, so it is handy to check this in your syllabus at the beginning of the course in case you want to do some travelling for example (no exams = 1-2 weeks off earlier!).</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	<p>I had to go to the international office once, at UNSW, because I had to change my course for the summer term. They helped me out fine and sent me booklets etc. to try to help me with my choices. They also looked at several opportunities with me and they were able to provide more information and advice on that, so that was helpful as well!</p>
transfer of credits	<p>I did not yet get to do this, as my Exchange programme just ended one week ago.</p>

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>	
welcome & orientation programme	<p>We had an official welcome by the director of UNSW and there was an O-week (orientation week, for all students!). However, as said before; make sure to note down/do research on the o-week activities, as UNSW is not always super clear on their communication regarding (in my opinion) o-week, so I missed out on the goody bag... However, o-week and the international activities they organised were great opportunities to meet other (international) students (I believe this was organised by ARC; their student association).</p>
accommodation	<p>I found it quite easy to get a room, but it is expensive! I could not get a room on campus, so I had to look further. I already booked an Airbnb from home (NL), and I booked this for my entire stay in Sydney. However, I would not recommend this, unless you have seen the place before or know the people. I did not like the room/house I was in, so I ended up moving again. Fortunately, I found accommodation really close to Uni, and I found it quite fast as well!</p>
leisure & culture	<p>I think the City of Sydney is great! They organise a lot of festivities/activities. Also, Sydney has a lot of beaches to offer, the one closest to Uni is ‘Coojee Beach’, and it’ll take you like half an hour to get there (walking that is). Of course, you have Bondi as well, but that will take you almost an hour from Uni!</p> <p>Also, ARC organises quite some events and they have a lot of clubs at UNSW! So, make sure to join some of</p>



them as you meet new people and experiences.
suggestions/tips
I joined ARC and went on several trips from the Wandersoc (basically doing walking tracks) and Arc Goes To. They were great, as I got to meet new people and I got to see nature in/around Sydney! So, if you like that; I would definitely recommend! Also, I would recommend booking an Airbnb, hotel or hostel for your first couple of days/first week, so you can look for other accommodation and do some viewings (if you are not able to get campus living).

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I had a great time in Sydney and I had plenty of time to travel as well... So, I ended up travelling across the whole of Australia and I got to see so much! I must say that I sometimes had quite a hard time because of the enormous distance between the Netherlands and Sydney, and there is also a time difference of 8-10 hours (depends on summer/wintertime), so it could be difficult to contact friends and family at home. However, I found it all worth the effort in the end and I personally learned so much from being so far away! And I believe Sydney in particular is then a very good city to be in and explore Australia from there on!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Just keep in mind that going to Australia requires quite some effort and that applying at UNSW could take up some time; so, start your application as early as possible! Also, make sure to save enough money as living (and travelling) is quite expensive in Oz!



**UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018**

Faculty/college:	FSW
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	(Cognitive) Psychology

Destination city & country	SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	12-02-2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	20-07-2018

**Preparation**

Exchange/placement application process:

The preparation and placement was an easy-to-follow process. After I attended the meeting for students wanting to travel abroad, I knew enough to apply for the application process. The only thing that was annoying, was that I had no clue when I would be accepted (or denied) by the abroad university. Also, only after I applied to the foreign university, I learned that I needed an English certification for Australian universities. I would've been so much easier if I knew this in time.

Counselling/support at home university:

Support from home university was fine. As far as they could help me, they did help me. Probably they could gain more information from UNSW, about their application process.

Academic preparation:

No relevant academic preparation

Language preparation:

Obligatory language test (TOEFL in my case). I scored 112 out of 120 easily, so in my opinion it's just some extra money thrown away.

Finances:

Finances were like I expected them: high living costs in Australia. I didn't have much problems though.

**Study/placement abroad period**



Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):
I think the content was generally easier than in the Netherlands. However, they did have more assignments and practical tasks to engage in the material. I thought this was an interesting way to master the material.
Academic quality of education/placement activities:
The academic quality of the education at UNSW is fine. It can be noticed that 'hbo' and 'universiteit' (two different levels of education in the Netherlands) are merged in foreign countries. Like I said before: generally easier, but more assignments.
Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:
Sadly, this was horrible before arrival. I requested extra assignments for my Honours program, by email, as Dutch Honours students. However, I either got forwarded to someone else, or I did not receive any answer. In the end this resulted in me not finishing all necessary Honours components. I definitely expected UNSW to be more supportive. After arrival, all support points were clearly communicated. However, in my case this was a bit too late.
Transfer of credits:
Not known yet
<b>Student life</b>
Welcome/orientation programme:
Fun and engaging. They offer O-week, a week full of activities and club events. Joining a club at this university is very nice. I loved the Outdoors Club and had a great time.
Accommodation:
Expensive, but good accommodation (off-campus). I stood in a hostel for the first two weeks, while looking for a room. In the end I found something nice at flatmates.com
Leisure/culture:
See orientation program: clubs are worth your time!
Suggestions/tips:
Join a club and go to O-week!
<b>Conclusions</b>
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
Yes, the clubs (that I joined) were awesome, the country is beautiful and the level of education is decent. However, be aware of the costs!
Do you have any additional advice or comments?:
-



**UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018**

Faculty/college:	Social Sciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Psychology

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of New South Wales
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	9-7-2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	1-12-2017

**Preparation**

Exchange/placement application process:

While you have to prepare and take care of a lot of forms etc. my home International Office was really helpful in putting a list together of the most important things that need to happen. By following this I didn't experience too much stress which was really nice. A tip which I found really useful is that your motivation is more important than your grades. Of course, they have to be around the requested grade, but if you really focus on why you want to go to your desired university and what courses you want to follow, your chances of placement will be higher.

Counselling/support at home university:

This was great. I emailed my home International Office about a bunch of stuff several times and every time they reacted really fast and answered my question clearly.

Academic preparation:

I worried a lot about my grades, and if they would be enough for acceptance because I was a little bit under the required GPA. Thankfully, I found your motivation more important. Next to that, I didn't further prepare academically for the university abroad because I followed courses that were easier than the ones I had just followed at home. Also, Dutch academic standards at universities are quite high so when going abroad to Australia I found the overall academic expectations are a bit lower.

Language preparation:

Because most courses I followed at home were partially in English this was quite easy and I didn't need to prepare anything. Also English standards for Dutch people are generally quite high so in Australia you'll probably be fine.



Finances:

Finances can be quite hard when going to Australia, because everything is more expensive. Make sure you have enough savings on hand before and you also probably have to put your student loan on maximum for a while. Thankfully, my abroad uni had made a list of some of the expenses you need to keep in mind which made it easier to prepare for all the finances.

**Study/placement abroad period**

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Before acceptance the abroad uni already makes you choose your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choices in courses, which makes it really easy to enrol. Also, the online-program in which you had to choose was really easy to use and made it easy to see which courses you could or couldn't enrol in.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The courses were generally a bit easier than the ones in follow at home, but that's also partially because a followed some first year courses and introduction courses.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Support at the host uni was really helpful especially during the enrolling process when I was still at home. Everything that I was required to do to enrol properly before and after arrival they emailed several times to make sure I didn't forget about it.

Transfer of credits:

I didn't have to do anything myself to make sure credits got transferred properly. Also, the grades you get at UNSW will probably turn out a little bit higher when transferred which is a nice extra.

**Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

The host International Office organised a lot of fun events before the start of the semester, which was really nice to get to know a lot of the other exchange students.

Accommodation:

There is university accommodation, but that is really expensive compared to what kind of room you get for it. Therefore I choose to not do that and look for my own room off campus. There are a lot of different facebook pages available for the exchange students where people post when they have rooms available and where you can post when you need a room. Just remember you probably will have to share a room and sometimes the rent can be as much as double what you pay for your Dutch room.

Leisure/culture:

If you plan your courses right you can have a lot of free time and spend a lot of that making trips and doing fun activities. There are a lot of things to do around Sydney which are really fun for day trips. Especially Sundays are really nice in Sydney, because public transport is really cheap.

Suggestions/tips:



Make sure you have nice room/housemates, because they can be your main support system and it is nice to be able to come home and relax and have nice people around.

**Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes, I definitely would recommend UNSW. It is a great university and the courses where really nice. Sydney is also a great city and this is lots of amazing stuff to do.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

I don't have any more information to give.



**UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017**

Faculty/college:	Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences
Level:	bachelor
Name degree programme:	Bachelor Psychologie

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution	UNSW
Purpose of exchange	study/courses
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	15/02/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	1/08/2017

**Preparation**

Exchange/placement application process:

I had to write a letter of motivation to be selected for the study abroad. In that letter I wrote down the courses I planned to take.

Counselling/support at home university:

The counselling and support is very helpful. You always get answers to your questions and emails are answered within days.

Academic preparation:

If you are fine at University of Utrecht, you will be fine at UNSW. No preparation needed if you ask me.

Language preparation:

If you can speak moderate English you should be fine.

Another language that might come in handy if mastered is Mandarin.

When it comes to Australian English though I have to warn you. I found their accent very hard to understand. The first 2 months I couldn't understand two thirds of what some Australians said. North American, South American, European, Russian and Asian English accents have never really been a problem for me, but African and Australian is very tough to understand. The Ozzies like to speak very fast while mumbling, making three different words sound like 1 new word.

Finances:

Sydney is ... expensive. 1 dollar is equal to about 0,75 euro. Some noodle bar will charge you 12 Dollar for a dish. Fish and chips will be 18 Dollar. Beers 4-7 dollar (also in the supermarket, unless you buy 30 cans at once). Buying food for one day at the Coles supermarket (equivalent of Albert



Heijn) will cost at least 10 Dollar, but it will more likely be 20. Ice-cream will be 4 Dollar a scoop. And some simple chips will be 4 Dollar.

A hoodie will be 30-40 Dollar. A tent 30. A burger 12. A diving trip to the great barrier reef 250. A night in a hostel will be 22.

You will spend 200-300 Dollar a week for simple accommodation.

Driving public transport will cost you approximately 2-3.5 Dollar per one way ride. But after 15 Dollar of spending the rest of that day will be free.

### **Study/placement abroad period**

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Studying in Sydney was not very different from studying in Utrecht. Courses at both universities are divided in lectures and seminars. In these seminars you'll have to give presentations and prepare for written reports. The only big difference is, that the academic year is divided in 2 parts in Sydney and in 4 parts in Utrecht. At UNSW you will have 4 courses over the period of one semester, whereas in Utrecht you'll have 2 courses per quarter.

There have been plans however at UNSW in Sydney to get rid of this old way of organisation of the academic year. They want to change towards a trimester system, in which the year is divided in 3 parts. A ridiculous Idea if you ask me, since it makes their university highly incompatible with other university programmes when it comes to exchange agreements.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

This is very comparable to the University of Utrecht.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

If you send them an email with bureaucratic problems they will respond and help you solve it.

They will not help you to find accommodation though.

Transfer of credits:

I am not sure yet how this works.

### **Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation programme was very cool. UNSW does not have fraternities. Their colleges are the things that resemble our fraternities the most.

Instead of fraternities they have a huge amount of societies, which will present themselves to you in their semester 1 in small booths all over the campus. Most of them are free, but some cost money. I will list a few down here so that you might get an impression:

- UNSW Windsurfing Surfing & Sailing Club (these guys have nice surf get togethers and cheap surfboard rentals)
- Waterski
- UNSW gameplayers



- Disney
- Korean
- German
- League of Legends
- NUTS (theatre)
- Poker
- Ultimate frisbee
- Etc...

Further there are two decent bars: The Greenhouse and The Whitehouse. Their main bar the Roundhouse is currently under construction. I did not really drink much alcohol in Sydney however. It was just too expensive and there were just too many other cool things to do.

#### Accommodation:

My first tip would be: get a room in one of the on-campus accommodations. They offer single rooms with prices ranging between 200-600 Dollar a week. This often includes breakfast and dinner. (go for the 200 ones of course). You will have to apply very early, since most of these things will be full superfast. I applied for international house, where I had to pay a fee of 40 Dollar to be considered and they did not even send me an email to turn me down. I heard from another student that the bureaucrats of international House are disliked by many. But there have been people who skipped the process of applying online. They just walked in there, asked for a room and got it. So this might be an option for you. You'll just need luck.

Otherwise I would recommend you to use gumtree.com.au to find accommodation. UNSW will not help you in this endeavour. Rent is paid by the week and 200-300 dollars is the cheapest you will find. This will often be a shared room within a shared house. Single rooms are very hard to find and expensive. But it is not impossible. I found a single room too in Maroubra.

It is not very hard to find accommodation in general. Just book a hostel for your first 1-2 weeks and you should be fine. Don't aim for a perfect room. It is not worth the hassle if you are only there for 1 semester.

#### Leisure/culture:

I would recommend the following thing:

Get a room near Bondi or Maroubra. The beaches there are beautiful there and they are not too far from Campus. Coogee is also very nice, but surfing is not allowed at their beach. Maroubra is cheaper, less touristy and crowded and has higher waves. Bondi has a very nice vibe and is vibrant, but it is quite full and relatively expensive. Also the waves tend to be smaller.

Further I would recommend going to the following places:

- Manly beach
- Opera house
- Circular Quay
- Bondi to Coogee walk
- Figure 8 pools
- Cockatoo Island



- CBD in general
- Internet Café 'Super New Generation' at Anzac parade (if you like gaming).

Suggestions/tips:

Go get your Open Water Diver SCUBA licence in Sydney. You'll be allowed to dive till 18 meters with it and you'll be able to go SCUBA diving at the Great Barrier Reef later on.

There is an unbelievably cheap SCUBA shop in Coogee: 'Pro Dive Coogee'. The people are very nice and some of them speak German. They offer a 3-day course for only 150 Dollar. That is crazy. Other shops will ask you 500 for the same thing. I did 4 shore dives and 2 pool dives with them. There I saw a huge bull ray and a baby giant cuttlefish.

**Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

YES. Awesome city. Australians are very helpful and kind in general. Nice Campus. Nice societies. Nice fellow students. Awesome beaches. Great surf. Cool country to explore.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Yeah. The weather is very good in their summer. But their winter is very comparable to the Dutch autumn: Lots of rain and cold temperatures (5-19 Celsius, but almost never under 0).

Another thing is the following: Selection of courses is an extremely tedious process at UNSW.

First you will choose the courses you want. Then the office of UNSW will have to approve. They want the courses to be fitting to your background. If they approve the faculties have to approve as well. They can still deny access to the courses after main office approved. If any of the two do not approve you will have to search for a new course. This whole process is not automated, so their staff has to go through all 'applications' manually, so it can take some time.

Further the home students are processed before the exchange students. So it can happen that the course you wanted is already full before you could even apply yourself.

I have seen other exchange students, who still not had 4 courses already one week into the semester. When you did manage to get your four courses though you will be presented schedule. You can then go to the red building and change your schedule so that you might have a more pleasant one. This option however is not clearly explained to you. So you have to take matters in your own hand and be fast.

Utrecht University clearly has organized this better.

Also your student card functions as a key, letting you into the buildings of your faculties. This is nice, since the free computers in the library can be quite annoying: they will automatically kick you of after 1 to 2 hours of activity.



**UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017**

Faculty/college:	Social sciences
Level:	X bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Educational sciences

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of New South Wales (UNSW)
Purpose of exchange	X study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	4-07-2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	26-01-2017

**Preparation**

Exchange/placement application process:

It was quite a hassle/ a lot of work to complete the application. Australia has some specific rules (for example: compulsory local healthcare insurance). You need this insurance before being able to apply for a visa etc. So; make sure to start early with entire application process, because it will take some time to do as well as a lot of 'waiting for response time'

Counselling/support at home university:

The support was great! If you had questions or needed something, the international office made sure they sent you the documents or answered your questions quickly. The UNSW asks for language proficiency proof. The international office just sent me one, instead of me having to complete an expensive exam.

Academic preparation:

You already have to pick courses before leaving (you're allowed to change them over there though). I first picked a couple of courses which suited me perfectly, although they appeared to be postgraduate, so I wasn't allowed to do them. Make sure that you are eligible for the courses you pick. If you're not sure, you can just try to apply, make sure that you state yourself clearly in the 'motivation section'. You can even ask teachers here to send an email to the UNSW to state that you do have the prerequisite knowledge for a certain course (if you can't proof it yourself)

Language preparation:

Before leaving to Australia I was slightly nervous about my English proficiency. This wasn't necessary at all. I reckon the English proficiency of (most) Dutch students is sufficient to get around well. Also, when you're 'placed' in another (English speaking) country, your level of



proficiency will increase quickly. I did have some struggles writing my first essay, but after writing a couple, even that was pretty easy. If you would like to practice something, I would mainly practice speaking and writing.

Finances:

Australia is an expensive country, especially Sydney. Keep in mind that housing is at least double, but most likely triple the amount that you would pay in the Netherlands. The displayed rent prices on i.e. websites is often weekly. I was very glad when I first saw the amount of rent I would have to pay, until I figured out that it was weekly...

Groceries are more expensive as well, but if you search well, you will find some great deals. If you can bring toiletries with you, it will save you some money. You should purchase sunscreen in Australia.

On Sundays, you can use the public transport for free! If you look through groupon, uber eats, apps of local restaurants, you will find many opportunities to get some free stuff.

**Study/placement abroad period**

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

It is all pretty clear. They have course guides with all the information you need, they'll make sure all your accounts are up and running (they use moodle instead of blackboard, different email etc.) I sometimes had some struggles finding what I need, but the professors are helpful as well (via email/ in person). It always depends on the courses you pick, but in general the difficulty is somewhat the same as in the Netherlands.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The academic quality was good. It might feel a little bit more like our 'high school'. Many deadlines throughout the semester, even some small tests during lectures. This does make you study in advance, which is useful. The essays/presentations challenged you to apply the theories of the course, they helped me achieving a high level of understanding. The only remark I would like to make is: the finals were mainly reproduction questions, which I wasn't used to anymore.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The UNSW really is an international university, thousand(s) of foreign students. They start off with a meeting where all the different institutions present themselves (healthcare, dentist, security, international office and many more). During this meeting you'll learn how to contact each institution. I just walked into the international office twice, and they were able to help me in a matter of minutes. They will help you wherever they can.

Transfer of credits:

This was easy. The UNSW sends your transcript of records to Utrecht University, they will transfer the marks to the Dutch 'standard' and they'll send you these marks in a letter (and register them in Osiris)

**Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:



The UNSW organises an O(rientation)week, which consists out of dozens of activities. These activities can be used to meet people. The UNSW has almost an endless amount of associations, literally for almost anything there is an association (from surfing to drinking tea). Also, several on-campus-living-accommodations organise some activities as well.

Accommodation:

I decided to stay on campus, it is slightly more expensive than many off-campus accommodations. But I am glad I did. Other people had to first fly to Sydney and then find a place to sleep, I just moved in straight away. Also, my place became on the places where we would meet up regularly, because it was easily reachable for everyone, benefits of living on campus. Besides this, I didn't have to handle unfair/annoying landlords (as some of my friends had to).

Leisure/culture:

I really enjoyed the Australian culture. Less stressful and punctual than the Dutch culture. And on top of that, it is a western country, so the culture shock isn't too big.

In my leisure time, I decided to learn to surf, go out with friends, work out, go to the beach, visit Sydney, go to all the zoo's, whale watching etc etc.... There literally was an endless amount of possible activities in Sydney itself, but definitely don't forget to visit Sydney's surroundings (blue mountains, the prettiest beaches anywhere you go). I decided to do a roadtrip from Sydney-Melbourne-great ocean road and one from Airlie beach (Whitsunday islands)-Sydney. They were amazing, Australia is exceptionally pretty.

Suggestions/tips:

Try to find an Australian (local) friend! The university is so internationally orientated and most O week activities are with other international students. This leads to you mainly meeting other international students, which is fun, but I am very glad that I found an Australian friend during a seminar. He introduced me to his group of friends and they welcomed me in the group, which was a wonderful experience (and really helpful for your English. Mingling in with a group of locals is the real test of your proficiency, the Australian accent might cause some struggles).

**Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would definitely recommend going to the UNSW. The UNSW is internationally orientated, so they do have all the facilities that you might need. You have so many opportunities to ask for help if something is going on or bothering you.

Besides this, Australia itself is an amazing and pretty country.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Enjoy it to the fullest!